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OTR

course

on Intelligence Principles and Methods

4 April 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant to the DDI (Admin.)

SUBJECT : O/NE Comments on the Objectives of the Course in Intelligence Principles and Methods.

REFERENCE : Your memorandum, 28 March 1956, re subject.

1. O/NE believes that the course as described is not properly named in that it apparently will deal almost exclusively with procedures rather than principles. For example:

- (a) the objectives as described in para. 1 refer only to "skills and methods";
- (b) para. 3 treats only "orderly procedures";
- (c) para. 4 as written leaves the impression that the course will attempt to give detailed procedural answers to the questions posed therein.

2. If the course is to be on intelligence "procedures", O/NE would suggest omitting the word "principle" from the title. That being done, we would have no particular objection to the memorandum as it now stands.

3. However, O/NE is reluctant to set forth those matters involved in its own operation that it would like to have presented in the course. This reluctance stems primarily from the belief that a course limited to procedures and methods of the kind described in the OTR memorandum is impractical and unrewarding. The principal reason for this belief is that, in O/NE's view, the precise answers to the questions posed in paragraph 4 of the OTR memorandum will vary with each office. For instance, each office obtains its materials in a different way. Moreover, each office presents its intelligence differently depending upon the type of

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intelligence it is responsible for, the nature of the intended consumer, etc. This kind of procedure and mechanics can be more effectively and more economically taught new employees after they are on the job.

4. Moreover, O/NE believes that if OTR is interested in achieving the results described in the last sentence of its memorandum, it can do so far more effectively by giving a course on Intelligence Principles. Such a course, by concentrating on the functions and purposes of intelligence, would give the student a better frame of reference for solving the detailed procedural problems he would face when he gets on the job.

5. O/NE suggests that paragraph 4 of the OTR memorandum touches upon, if only by implication, many of the basic principles of intelligence and if recast could serve as the nucleus of such a course. O/NE does not consider itself qualified to outline the scope and coverage of such a course, but would be glad to comment on OTR's specific proposals if it is decided to emphasize principles rather than detailed procedures.

Training Liaison Officer  
Office of  
National Estimates

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